GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Education among the Disadvantaged
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has tried to ascertain the factors affecting the growth of education among Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes dominated and poverty ridden areas of the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether any mechanism has been set in place to improve the level of education and facilities in these areas; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a)& (b): In 2012,the Ministry of Human Resource Development, got an assessment of the facilities available as per Right to Education (RTE), 2009 norms for primary and upper primary education in rural tribal areas of nine states namely- Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh by Jamia Millia Islamia. The study found that 90% or more habitations had the facility of primary education within a distance of 1 km and 91% habitation had the facility of upper primary education within 3 km, there was wide variation across states in the percentage of schools in terms of facilities such as availability of playground, 90% schools had School Management Committee (SMCs), and regular medical check-up of students; the percentage of female teachers was below 50%, the percentage of ST teachers varied between 6.0% and 30% in different States. As per RTE norms, percentage of schools with Pupil Teacher Ratio(PTR) below 30 in schools, is quite high in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. The facilities of girls' toilets, ramps, drinking water were available in more than 95% of schools located in ST predominant areas of Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. The percentage of schools having library facility was much lower in the sampled schools as compared to all the schools in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.In almost 98% of schools, free textbooks were being provided by the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA).About two-thirds of schools receive uniforms from SSA. 82.4% schools under SSA receive Mid-Day Meal (MDMs)
In 2013, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs conducted an evaluation study through the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, to evaluate the educational schemes funded by them in Maharashtra and the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh. The study inter-alia observed that there was inadequate infrastructure in the Hostels and Ashram Schools for ST students and their poor maintenance. Though the scholarships were motivating the parents to send their children to school and the schemes were also helping the students to continue their education, the quantum of scholarship money was inadequate and there was a significant delay in disbursement of the same.
(c) & (d): I. To improve the level of education and facilities for Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs) students, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken several initiative which are as under:-
Under SSA, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in association with States and UTs for universalization of elementary education for all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in the country,bridging gender and social category gaps in elementary education is one of the major goals and districts with 25% and above population of SCs and STs are considered as Special Focus Districts (SFDs).Under SSA facilities are being extended to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at elementary level for text books, uniform, MDM, fee reimbursement, Kasturba BalikaVidhyalya which have residential facility within upper primary schools SwachVidhyalya initiative. Besides, section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act provides 25% reservation in private unaided schools to children belonging to disadvantaged weaker sections.
Under Rashtriya Madhaymik Siksha Abhiyan(RMSA) the districts with high

concentration of population of SCs and STs have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs),based on criteria of SCs and STs population of 25% and above. Total 61 districts have been identified as SC concentration districts and 109 districts have been identified as ST concentration districts. Under RMSA, the interventions such as opening of new schools strengthening of schools, construction of girls hostel, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools, provision of vocational education have been made in SC, ST concentration districts. Besides providing access through physical infrastructure, other steps taken for improving enrolment and reducing dropout of students include provision of learning enhancement programme for weak students, enrolment and retention drives, guidance and counseling programmes, self-defence training for girl students, provision of separate toilets for girls, residential quarters for female teachers in remotely located areas etc.The facilities being extended to SC, ST and OBC Students in the country are through various schemes.

Besides, University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing various scholarship/fellowships schemes wherein financial assistance to selected candidates belonging to SC/ST categories is provided for pursuing Post-Graduation, M.Phil./Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral research and on full time/ regular basis in Universities/Institutions/Colleges in India. Many of these schemes are funded by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and implemented by UGC like :-P.G. Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST candidates, National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes Students, National Fellowship for Higher Education of ST Students, Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST. The beneficiaries of these scheme are paid fellowship on DBT platform by designated branches of Canara bank through Public Financial Monitoring System (PFMS)

II. The following Schemes pertaining to SC students are implemented by M/o Social Justice & Empowerment:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students studying in Class IX/X (Pre-matric IX and X), to support education of SC students with parents falling within income ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakhs p.a.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students to support education of SC students with parents Income ceiling if Rs. 2.50 lakhs p.a.

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards No income ceiling.

(iv) Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates to support education of SC students with parent's income ceiling is Rs. 6.00 lakhs p.a.

(v) Central Sector Scheme of National Fellowship for SC students to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. Implemented through UGC. No income ceiling prescribed.

(vi) Scheme for Free Coaching for SC and OBC students to support education of SC students with parent's income ceiling Rs. 6.00 lakhs p.a.

(vii) Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit for SC students (in classes IX to XII) (provides facilities to upgrade merit by education in residential and nonresidential schools).

(viii) Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for SC students (for SC students for pursuing study beyond 12th class.). Total income ceiling of family from all sources should not exceed Rs. 4.50 lakhs p.a.

(ix) BabuJagjivan Ram ChhatrawasYojna (BJRCY) provides Central Assistance for creation of hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities to the State Governments/UT Administrations, Central/State Government institutions/NGO/Deemed Universities.

(x) Assistance to voluntary Organisation working for the welfare of SCs wherein Grants-in-aid is released to NGOs/VOs working in the field of education, healthcare, skill development etc.

III. The following schemes pertaining to Scheduled Tribes are implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

(i) Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students to support education of ST students whose parent's annual income is below Rs. 2 Lacs.

(ii) The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to support education of ST students at Post Matriculation level including technical and professional studies whose parents annual income is below Rs. 2,50,000/-.

(iii) National Overseas Scholarship to provides financial assistance to selected students 17 ST, 3 particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups, to pursue Post Graduation, PhD and Post Doctoral study abroad, fellowship is given to the students whose total annual income along with the income of the parents does not exceed Rs. 6 Lacs.

(iv) Scheme of Top Class Education for ST students, to ST students for pursuing

studies and degree at Post Graduate level in any of the 158 identified institutions of excellence such as IITs, NIITs, IIMs etc.

(v) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for ST students: Under this scheme 750 fellowships are provided to the ST students each year for pursuing higher studies in India for MPhil and PhD. Fellowship amount is as per UGC norms for a period of 2 to 5 years.

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